

the patient and perplexing for the therapist. The phenomenon of homosexual panic stems in no small part from the internalization of society's futile attempt to stigmatize and prohibit homosexual behavior.

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## PAPACY

Given the custom of monastic sex-segregation and the extension of celibacy to the priesthood in the Western church beginning in the eleventh century, it is not surprising that a number of Roman pontiffs should have been involved in homoerotic sentiments and behavior. Details of the personal biographies of the early Christian popes are scanty, but beginning with the so-called dark age of the papacy (ninth–eleventh centuries) we begin to find information on wayward and self-indulgent behavior on the part of the bishops of Rome.

John XII (938–964) was the son of Alberic II, the civil ruler of the eternal city, and connected to other patrician families. On being elected pope at the age of eighteen, he modeled himself on the scandalous Roman emperor **Heliogabalus**, holding homosexual orgies in the papal palace. To counter opposition to his rule, he invited the German ruler Otto the Great to Rome, where he was crowned emperor in 962. John was thus instrumental in establishing the Holy Roman Empire, an institution that lasted in a formal sense until 1806. Benedict IX (1021–ca. 1052) was the son of the count of Tusculum. He imitated John XII in staging licentious orgies. These and other excesses caused such indignation that Benedict was deposed in 1045, but then reinstated, only to be deposed again. He disappeared into such deep obscurity that his actual date of death is unknown. John's activities may have helped to incite the reaction of the puri-

tanical theologian Peter **Damian** (1007–1072), whose *Liber Gomorrhianus* is an attack against all kinds of sexual irregularities among the clergy. Under his associate Pope Gregory VII (ca. 1021–1085) reform ideas triumphed, and clerical celibacy was made obligatory for the Catholic priesthood, an injunction that remains in force to this day. The licentious "Pope Joan," who is supposed to have lived during this period, is entirely mythical.

As might be expected, it is the **Renaissance** period, with its revival of classical antiquity and love of art, that sees the greatest number of sexually active popes. The Venetian Paul II (1417–1471) was so vain that he had originally intended to take the name Formosus ("beautiful"). He was a collector of statuary, jewelry, and (it was said) of handsome youths. Given to the most sumptuous ecclesiastical drag, he was lampooned by his enemies as "Our Lady of Pity." His successor, Sixtus IV (1414–1482), is remembered for his art patronage, which included the erection and first decorations of the Sistine chapel. Among the artists most prominent in his reign was the Florentine homosexual **Bot-ticelli**. This pope favored his scheming nephews, one of whom himself became pope under the name of Julius II. However, Sixtus was most devoted to another nephew, Raffaele Riario, whom he made papal chamberlain and bishop of Ostia. He elevated to the cardinalate a number of other handsome young men.

The Borgia pope, Alexander VI (1431–1503) was believed to have reduced Rome to unparalleled depths of depravity, and the city teemed with assassins and prostitutes of both sexes. Alexander was himself much given to womanizing, having sired eight or more children, but he was apparently not averse to the charms of young men as well. His successor Julius II (1443–1513) positioned himself for high office during the reign of his uncle Sixtus IV. A lover of art, he patronized both **Mich-elangelo** and Raphael, and in 1506 he laid the foundation stone for the magnificent

church of New St. Peters. However, Julius' military conquests caused friction with the king of France and the German emperor. At their behest a council met in Pisa in 1511 to consider his deposition. Arraigned as "this sodomite, covered with shameful ulcers, who has infected the church with his corruption," Julius nonetheless managed to prevail by calling his own council, which was still in session when he died in May 1513. His successor, the Medici Leo X (1475–1521), was also a great patron of the arts, so much so that his extravagance is said to have helped bring on the Reformation. Like several of his predecessors he was involved in intrigues to advance favorite nephews, an expensive hobby that strained the treasury to the utmost.

Before becoming pope, Julius III (1487–1555) had presided over the Council of Trent, which was to result in the Counterreformation and a new sobriety at the papal court. However, Julius III was granted one last Indian summer period of licentiousness. He was often seen at official occasions with a catamite, Innocente (Prevostino), whom he created a cardinal, together with a number of other teenage boys.

The dour Pius V (reigned 1566–1572) issued two constitutions, the first (V, *Cum primum*) of which turned sodomites over to the secular courts and ordered degradation of members of the clergy who were guilty of the vice; a second (LXXII, *Horrendum*) provided that religious found guilty be deprived of the benefit of clergy, but only if the sodomitic acts were frequent and repeated, as it were from habit; this presumably exempted individuals who had only occasionally strayed.

Little is known of sexual irregularity of modern popes, at least during their pontificates. According to Roger Peyrefitte, John XXIII (1881–1963) and, more plausibly, Paul VI (1897–1978) conducted homosexual affairs. The Polish pope, John Paul II (1920– ), had denounced

conservative views on sex and marriage long before his election in 1978. After becoming pope he encouraged Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger to issue a statement reaffirming disapproval of homosexuality, terming it an "intrinsic moral evil" (letter of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, October 30, 1986). Also under this pope the American gay Catholic organization Dignity was forbidden to use church premises for its activities, and gay Catholics would appear to have entered a phase of banishment *extra ecclesiam*, as least as far as the practice of their sexual preference is concerned.

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## PARAGRAPH 175

This was the notorious article of the Imperial Criminal Code (*Reichsstrafgesetzbuch*) that was adopted in 1870 for the newly-formed North German Confederation and then took effect on January 1, 1872 on the entire territory of the empire, replacing the criminal codes of the 36 sovereign entities that had existed in Germany since 1815. Paragraph 175 penalized *widernatürliche Unzucht*, "lewd and indecent acts contrary to nature" between males (but not between females), and provided for a maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment. Although the original scope of the law had been solely anal intercourse, it was subsequently expanded by the appellate courts until it covered all "acts similar to coitus" (*beischlafähnliche Handlungen*), but not mutual masturbation. The major aim of the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee, founded by Magnus Hirschfeld and his collaborators on May 14, 1897, was to secure repeal of the offending paragraph, and to that end a petition was circulated among prominent and cultured figures of Wilhelmine and then Weimar Germany. The petition was in the course of more